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2025

FOR MOUNTAINS
AND PEOPLE



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ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Foreword

Director General, ICIMOD



Climate and environmental risks continue to intensify across the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) – and 2025 brought that reality into sharp focus. Record-low snowfall across 12 major river basins. Intense monsoon flooding. Glacial lake outburst floods that claimed lives and destroyed infrastructure built over generations. These are not anomalies. They are the new pattern. And they are arriving faster than even the most cautious projections anticipated.

The HKH is warming faster than the global average. Glaciers that took millennia to form are retreating within a human lifetime. As someone who has spent decades working on mountain sustainability, I feel both a scientific responsibility and a human obligation to speak plainly: the window for action is narrowing, and the cost of delay is not abstract – it is measured in lives, in livelihoods, and in landscapes lost.

Geopolitics and financing have also shaped what was possible in 2025. The abrupt withdrawal of major funding streams created real disruption. Political transitions across several member countries required us to adapt quickly. And yet – these pressures have only reinforced what ICIMOD exists to do: to be the space where science persists,

where dialogue continues, and where mountain communities remain visible even when political channels are strained.

The Annual Report 2025 highlights not only what has been delivered, but also what is beginning to change. This year I see a clear inflexion point: a shift from research and pilot interventions toward policy integration and scaling. Governments across the HKH are now embedding ICIMOD's tools, assessments, and frameworks directly into national policy – from Nepal's climate commitments to Pakistan's water bulletins to Bhutan's rangeland management. This is what ICIMOD was built to do. And in 2025, it is happening at scale.

Despite growing evidence of risk, climate finance for mountain regions remains disproportionately limited. The HKH contributes least to the emissions driving this crisis and bears among the heaviest consequences. Closing that gap – and demonstrating clearly and credibly the value of investment in mountain resilience – is one of the defining challenges ICIMOD will carry into MTAP VI.

As we close MTAP V and shape what comes next, this report is both a record and a reckoning – with what we have achieved, what remains unfinished, and

what the mountains are asking of us. Resilience is not a technical outcome. It is a lived reality. And the people of the HKH are living it every day.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our Board of Governors, Programme Advisory Committee, ICIMOD Support Group, Finance Committee, and all our partners across governments, academia, and civil society for their continued trust, guidance, and partnership. Your commitment keeps our mission grounded and forward-looking. To the people of the Hindu Kush Himalaya – thank you for your resilience, your wisdom, and your partnership. This work is for you, with you, and because of you.

Pema Gyamtsho, PhD
Director General



Introduction

Deputy Director
General, ICIMOD



The year 2025 was marked by extremes across the globe, with more severe and deeper manifestations of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss in the HKH. With an increased number of disasters combined with accelerated glacial melt and intense monsoons, and considering the turbulent funding landscape fuelled by unstable political scenarios worldwide, there is an ever-increasing need for ICIMOD to devise sustainable solutions.

At ICIMOD, we continued to work towards our vision of a greener, more inclusive, and climate-resilient HKH by advancing our knowledge, learning, and engagement, bringing mountain voices and issues to the global stage. Most importantly, we strengthened our role in uniting people from diverse sectors across the region and beyond to share experiences, skills, tools, and lessons to build our response and action, especially in the face of urgent transboundary challenges.

In our stories, you will find evidence of the unwavering resilience of the people of the HKH as they adapt to extreme climate and environmental changes that affect their lives and livelihoods. I am hopeful that the intrinsic knowledge of local communities across the region continues to be combined with the latest scientific research to develop lasting solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Whenever I have had the opportunity to interact with mountain communities in the HKH, I am in awe of the women who are the backbone of their families, neighbourhoods, and municipalities – carrying out gruelling physical work, as well as caring, farming, and now more and more being entrepreneurs. Our story on strengthening gender-responsive budgeting in Nepal’s local governments is a welcome step in the right direction for fairer resourcing.

We hope you will enjoy reading this report and exploring more about our work on our website.

Izabella Koziell
Deputy Director General

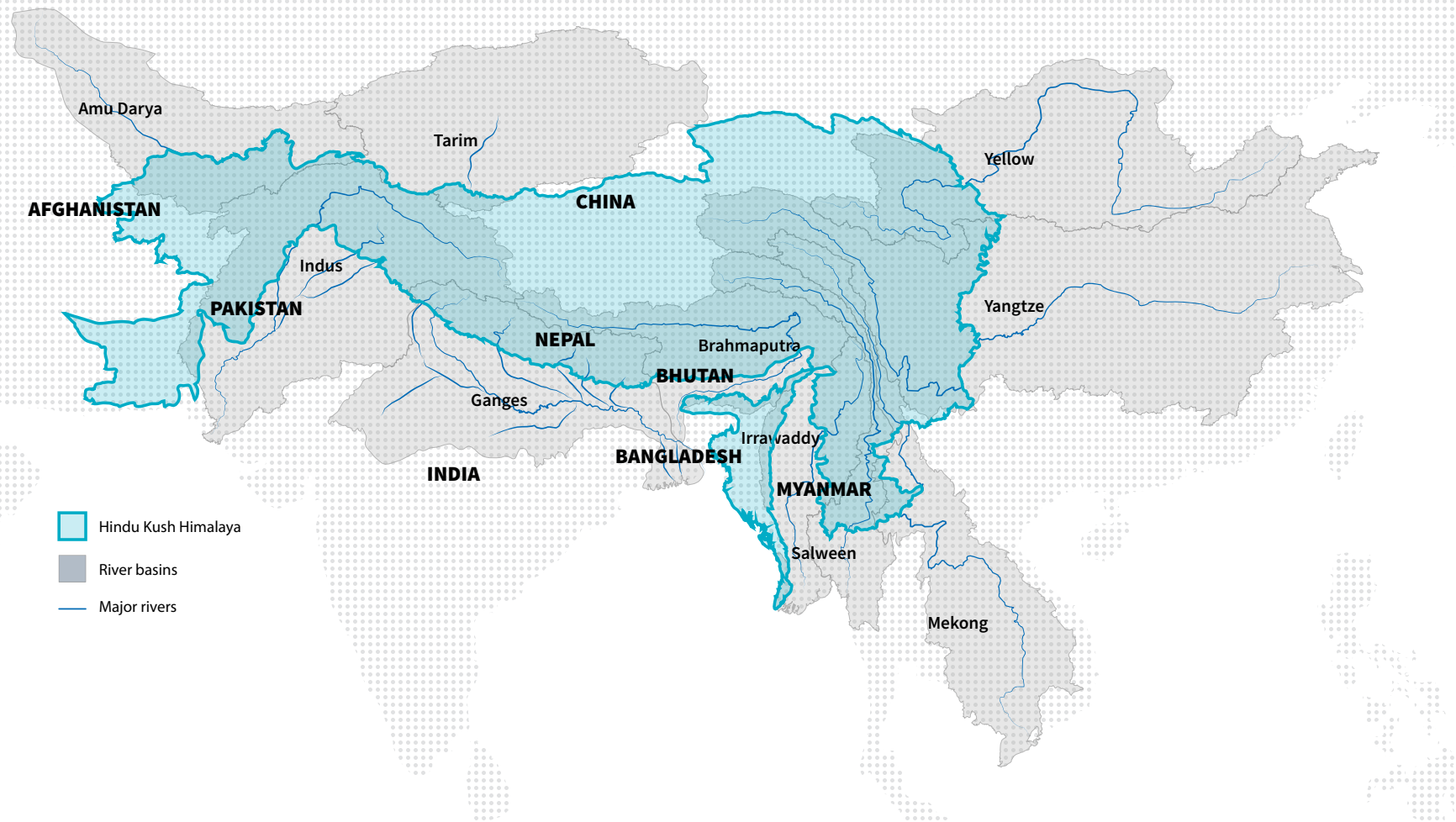


List of abbreviations and acronyms

AQM	Air Quality Management	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity (UN Biodiversity Conference)	IYGP	International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation
COP	UN Climate Change Conference (Conference of the Parties)	LML	Living Mountain Lab
DRR	Disaster risk reduction	LoA	Letter of Agreement
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
GEDSI	Gender equality, disability, and social inclusion	MTAP	Medium-Term Action Plan
GESI	Gender equality and social inclusion	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
GMBA	Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment	NTFPs	Non-timber forest products
GRB	Gender-responsive budgeting	RFP	Request for Proposals
HKH	Hindu Kush Himalaya	RMCS	ICIMOD’s Regional Member Countries
HKH-ICE	HKH Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurs	SANDEE	South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics
HKHBIF	Hindu Kush Himalayan Biodiversity Information Facility	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
HSA	Hydropower Sustainability Alliance	SOP	Standard operating procedure
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development	TOR	Terms of Reference
IGP-HF	Indo-Gangetic Plain and Himalayan Foothills	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
		UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
		USD	United States Dollar
		YIPP	Young ICIMOD Professionals Programme

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The Hindu Kush Himalaya

A region at a critical juncture

The Hindu Kush Himalaya is one of the most important - and most vulnerable - regions on earth. Stretching 3,500 kilometres across eight countries, it is home to 54,000 glaciers, 10 major Asian river systems, and four of the world's 36 global biodiversity hotspots. The communities, governments, and ecosystems of the HKH support the water, food, and energy security of nearly two billion people downstream. That foundation is now under serious and accelerating pressure.



0.3–0.7°C

warming per decade in high mountain areas: faster than the global average



23.6%

below normal snow cover in 2025 across 12 major river basins: the lowest in 23 years



250+

glacial lakes now considered potentially hazardous



2 billion

people downstream depend on HKH river systems for water, food, and energy



1 billion

people exposed to hazardous air pollution: linked to 1 million premature deaths every year



88 Gt

of glacier mass lost in high mountain asia in 2025 alone — the largest regional loss in that year globally

Source: IPCC AR6, HKH Snow Update 2025, ICIMOD's GLOF risk assessments, HI-WISE, WMO 2025 Air Quality and Climate Report.

THESE ARE NOT PROJECTIONS. THEY ARE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ICIMOD WORKED IN 2025.

Glaciers that have defined the landscape for millennia are in rapid retreat. At current warming trajectories, only half of HKH glacier mass will remain by 2100 at 2°C of warming – and as little as a quarter at 3°C. Peak glacier meltwater is expected around 2050, after which river flows will decline significantly, with profound consequences for the people and economies that depend on them. Total glacier area in the HKH has already shrunk by 12% between 1990 and 2020 – a loss of more than 7,300 square kilometres. And in 2023, the world recorded the largest glacier mass loss in five decades of continuous observation.

Less visible but equally significant: permafrost – the frozen ground that stabilises mountain slopes, infrastructure, and carbon stores across the HKH – is also degrading. Studies project that up to two-thirds of HKH permafrost could be lost by 2071–2099 under high-emissions scenarios. As permafrost thaws, it destabilises slopes, raises infrastructure costs, and releases stored carbon – adding systemic risk that compounds the water and ice crisis already underway.

Across the region, communities are already living with the consequences. Intense rainfall, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods – hazards that were once rare – are becoming part of the annual reality. Approximately one million people live within ten kilometres of a potentially dangerous glacial lake, and only five of the 200 most hazardous lakes have permanent monitoring stations. Meanwhile, out-migration is reshaping mountain communities, leaving behind women and the elderly to manage increasingly stressed landscapes. One major disaster can set a community back twenty years in development. The cost of inaction compounds with every season.

The air people breathe tells its own story. PM2.5 concentrations across South Asia regularly reach ten times WHO safe limits. Air quality is the most off-track among ICIMOD's four long-term impact areas, and because pollution crosses borders, no single country can solve it alone.

The year was also marked by a shifting global development and financing landscape for the HKH. Declining official development assistance (ODA fell by 7.1% last year – the sharpest drop in recent decades), changing donor priorities, and the withdrawal or reduction of several major funding streams created uncertainty across the region. The HKH countries face a climate finance need estimated at USD 12 trillion in total – nearly USD 769 billion annually. Against that backdrop, the barriers to accessing existing climate funds remain formidable: high transaction costs, difficult terrain, data gaps, and the small scale of mountain communities all disadvantage the region most in need.

Yet 2025 also presented important opportunities. The International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and the launch of the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences brought unprecedented global attention to ice loss and its consequences. And a growing coalition of mountain regions – from the Andes to the Alps, the Arctic to the HKH – is beginning to speak with one voice in global climate processes. The task is no longer to demonstrate why mountains matter. The task now is to ensure mountain risks, mountain solutions, and mountain communities are systematically reflected in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

This is why 2025 mattered. The science is clear. The risks are growing. And the consequences extend far beyond the mountains themselves. And this is why ICIMOD's work – translating science into policy, building governments' capacity to act, and keeping the HKH visible in global negotiations – has never been more urgent.

The HKH
countries face a
**climate finance
need estimated
at USD 12
trillion in total
– nearly USD 769
billion annually.**



A snapshot of 2025

A selection of key events, engagements and achievements across the year





Snow data for better decisions on water use

Snow across the Hindu Kush Himalaya feeds the rivers that 240 million mountain residents and nearly 2 billion people downstream depend on for water, food, and power – and that snow is shrinking. In Pakistan’s upper Indus basin, the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) now includes satellite-based snow data, part of ICIMOD’s work, in its monthly water bulletin to give water managers a clearer picture of how much snow is left to melt in the mountains.

Snow persistence* in 2025 was 23.6% below normal: the lowest in over two decades, and the third year in a row of decline.

*how long snow cover lasts through the season

For farmers and water managers, that decline means harder choices: when to plant, how to time irrigation, how much water to bank for the dry months ahead. And in remote mountain terrain, where ground monitoring is sparse and clouds often block satellite views, that information hasn’t always been there when it’s needed – usually before the melt season begins, not after.

ICIMOD’s annual HKH Snow Update turns satellite observations into a regional snow picture decision-makers can act on.

The bigger shift is moving from analysis to use. In Pakistan, ICIMOD trained

staff from the Glacier Monitoring and Research Centre of WAPDA to process and interpret snow data. WAPDA now includes snow information in its Monthly Water Bulletin, making it more useful for water planning. Bhutan and Nepal have also taken similar steps, sharing seasonal snow information ahead of peak melt season.

Better snow data will not stop water shortages or reverse climate change, but it aims to give water authorities and communities more reliable evidence, and enough lead time to plan instead of react.

The 2025 report reached

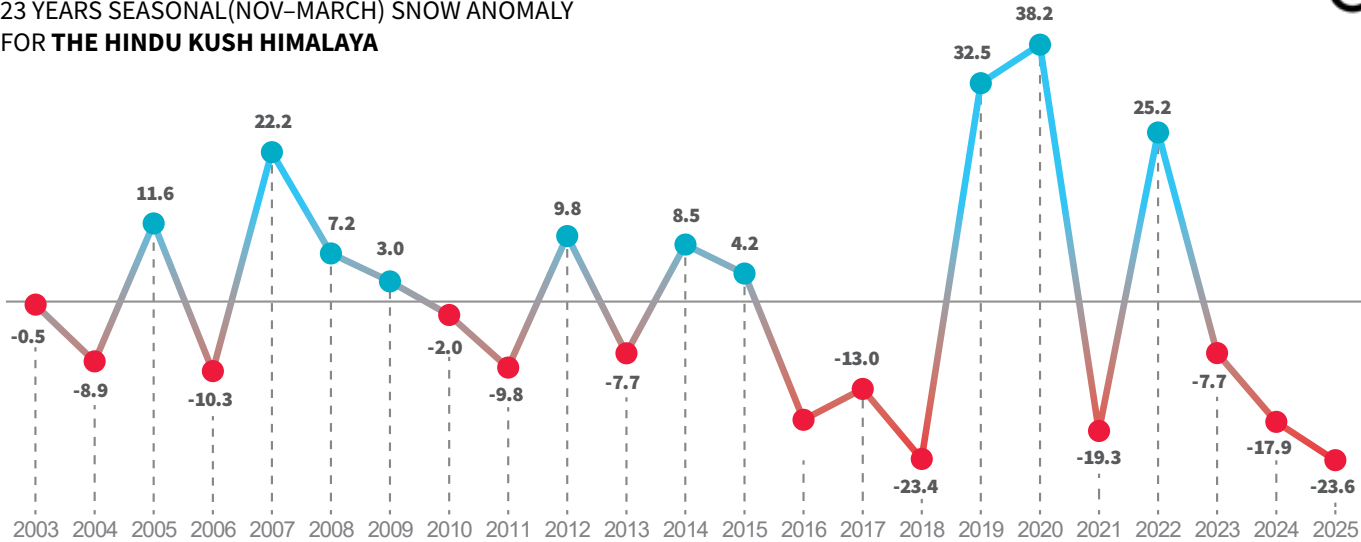
1,850

media mentions, putting the region’s declining snow on the public and policy radar.



SCAN TO READ FULL REPORT

23 YEARS SEASONAL(NOV–MARCH) SNOW ANOMALY FOR THE HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA





Gender-responsive budgeting

Turning inclusive disaster planning into local budget practice in Nepal

Each year, as ward officials across Nepal's seven federal provinces sit to decide the budgets of their local plans, the question remains the same. Will these public resources reach the people who need them most? Who will benefit from it?

In three municipalities – Dhankuta and Chhathar Jorpati in the east, and Bardibas in the south – those budgets now account for who is most at risk from disasters: women, older people, people with disabilities, and others often left out of planning. It's part of ICIMOD's work training local officials to apply gender-responsive budgeting principles that make disaster planning more inclusive.

Disasters across Nepal and much of the HKH do not affect everyone the same way. Women, girls, boys, men, the elderly and people with disabilities face different risks and have different needs before, during

and after a disaster – exactly what these budgets are starting to reflect.

For local governments and ward officials, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management. Nepal's local governments are already empowered to set aside budgets for disaster risk, climate change and gender equity – but implementation often stalls at the ward level, where officials need the technical skills to classify spending in Sub-National Treasury Regulation Application (SuTRA), the government's public system for tracking how public funds are used.

ICIMOD has worked with Human Rights, Social Awareness and Development Centre

and the Community Development and Advocacy Forum Nepal to train local government officials to ask the difficult questions around DRR planning: When floods hit, who from their community bears the heaviest burden? Are they adequately prepared for water shortage? Are all getting access to early warnings?

These GRB trainings have helped local planners better recognise those most exposed to disaster risk but least supported. It's begun moving gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) priorities out of training rooms into formal local budgets.



558
officials
spread across

105
wards have been
trained in gender-
responsive budgeting
(GRB) – an approach
to local planning
that accounts for
who is most at risk in
disaster.

Progressing on a regional pathway for cleaner air in the mountains

It is estimated that almost 1 billion people across the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Himalayan Foothills breathe hazardous air. In 2025, Nepal and Bhutan each took a national step toward addressing it – part of ICIMOD’s work helping countries across the region close gaps in clean air planning. No single source causes this. Emissions from transport, industry, energy use, agriculture, and households combine into pollution episodes that cross national borders – which is exactly why no one country can solve it alone.

Responses have often stayed fragmented: local measures that offer short-term relief but little lasting change. Without stronger coordination among countries and a clearer ownership of the problem, it becomes difficult to mobilise the investments sustained action needs.



ICIMOD works with its Regional Member Countries and partners to help close that gap– combining technical support, policy engagement, institutional capacity building and regional dialogues to encourage cleaner air investment.

In 2025, that support helped Nepal develop its National Air Quality Management Action Plan, and Bhutan begin its National Clean Air Action Plan. Policy gap analysis in Bangladesh and Pakistan has also led to ICIMOD working more closely with both governments on their own clean air plans.

Regional cooperation is building momentum too. In December 2025, ICIMOD and the World Bank joined the Royal Government of Bhutan to convene the Third Regional Science, Policy and Finance Dialogue – a forum where governments share funding opportunities, digital tools, and what’s actually working to clear the air.

For the 1 billion people breathing this air, these efforts show a shift from scattered local fixes towards more nationally and regionally coordinated efforts that can sustain progress over time.



Almost **1 billion people in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Himalayan Foothills breathe air that is hazardous to health** – driving productivity loss, chronic illness, and a lower quality of life

1 MILLION PREMATURE DEATHS LINKED TO AIR POLLUTION EVERY YEAR

133 PER 100,000 AIR POLLUTION MORTALITY RATE IN NEPAL ALONE



Natural farming integrated into subnational policy

Karnali, in Nepal’s far west, is the country’s least developed province, with food insecurity, economic fragility, and limited infrastructure and access to essential goods and services. The province’s livelihoods are facing compounding challenges. Declining soil fertility and climate vulnerability resulting from erratic precipitation, drought, and extreme weather events are affecting agriculture-based livelihoods and overall food security. These challenges, combined with a lack of off-farm economic opportunities, have led to youth outmigration, labour shortages, and feminisation of agriculture.

So, why was agroecology chosen to address these critical, interrelated challenges? Agroecology provides a pathway to rebuild soil health, improve food security and livelihoods, conserve the rich agrobiodiversity, and enhance resilience to climate change.

To ensure the roots of agroecology run deep, ICIMOD worked with the provincial government to mainstream it into the Karnali Agriculture Development Strategy. In 2025,

Technical support was provided to finalise the Strategy and, following its formal approval, worked with the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives to develop an implementation plan, leading to budgetary allocation for establishing agroecological model villages in three agroecological zones in the province.

But the work did not stop there. Working with Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), the National Agricultural Research Council, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, and other stakeholders, ICIMOD also facilitated alignment of KADS with Nepal’s National Agroecology Roadmap.

Taking this further, under the Promoting Resilient Agroecological Systems (PRAS) project, working with LI-BIRD and IFAD, ICIMOD developed prototype Palika Agroecological Plans – strategic, local-level frameworks designed to transition agriculture toward sustainable, climate-resilient farming systems.

ICIMOD’s pilot demonstration of agroecology solutions in three districts of Karnali has now been taken up by the government and scaled across 10 districts. The provincial government and development partners now actively apply

agroecology to guide programme design, investments, and scaling strategies, and large-scale programmes have adopted it as a pathway for resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems.



To ensure the roots of agroecology run deep, **ICIMOD worked with the provincial government to mainstream it into subnational policy by providing technical and facilitation support to finalise the Karnali Agriculture Development Strategy.**

ICIMOD’s pilot demonstration of agroecology solutions in Karnali has been taken up and scaled by the provincial government from





A solar thermal pathway to net-zero in Nepal

Nepal’s experiences hot, wet summers and cold, dry winters. Half of the energy consumption in the country is for heating and cooling, yet there were no specific renewable energy targets in its initial ‘Nationally Determined Contribution’ (NDC), the self-determined action plan to cut emissions under the Paris Agreement.

Without a planned clean energy transition, and solar energy as a cornerstone of this energy future, could Nepal meet its commitment to net-zero by 2045?

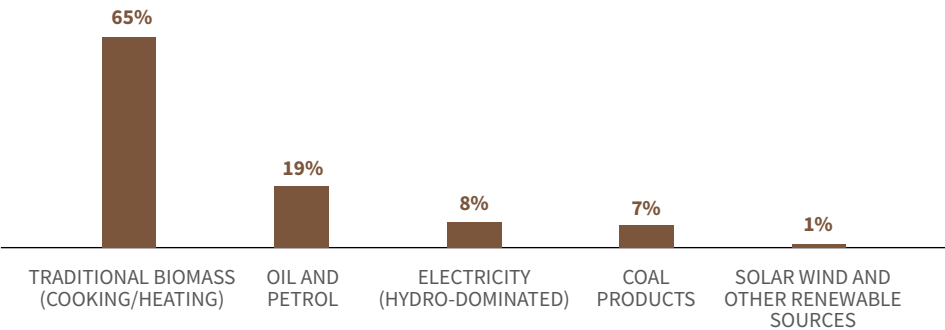
In 2025, working alongside the Nepal Government’s Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), ICIMOD helped develop the nation’s first-ever Solar Thermal Roadmap, which outlines a path to harness solar energy across key sectors to cut costs, reduce

pollution, and build a resilient, low-carbon economy. ICIMOD supported robust technical studies to quantify sector-wise socio-economic benefits in collaboration with experts from AEE – Institute for Sustainable Technologies, Austria, and stakeholders in Nepal.

ICIMOD then convened a series of consultations and technical workshops, led by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), to develop NDC 3.0 and include solar heating in national climate commitments. This dialogue among AEPC, the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, MoFE (the lead agency for climate plans), and other key stakeholders generated quantifiable sector-wise socio-economic-environmental outcomes that gave MoFE the data it needed to make this commitment.

Nepal’s NDC 3.0 has adopted and recognised solar thermal heating and cooling for the first time. This marks a fundamental policy shift, giving it the formal recognition essential to achieving the nation’s 2045 net-zero goal. The roadmap is now actively guiding implementation, and national solar thermal standards are being developed, drawing directly from the roadmap’s recommendations.

NEPAL’S TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY VARIOUS SOURCES



In 2025, ICIMOD, working alongside the Nepal Government’s Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), **helped develop the nation’s first-ever Solar Thermal Roadmap.**



From pilot to policy

Reviving springs in Manipur, India

A slow onset crisis is gripping the Himalaya. Springs are drying, creating acute water stress for many hill and mountain communities.

In the Indian state of Manipur, roughly half the natural springs have dried or are drying, impacting livelihoods and increasing the everyday drudgery of rural women who bear the primary burden of water collection. The decline in springs is attributed to unsustainable land use, forest degradation, erratic precipitation, and climate change.

We know that springs can be revived and there are several successful examples from the region. But is springshed management being adequately addressed within existing subnational policies?

After all, springshed management involves not just management of the source (springs) but also the recharge area. Our assessment showed that weak

50%
of springs in
the region are
drying



enforcement, limited resources to address drivers of spring loss, and fragmented institutional responsibilities were hindering coordinated action.

To mitigate this, in 2025, ICIMOD facilitated a series of interdepartmental roundtables bringing together government departments, universities, research institutions, projects, and private sector representatives – effectively bridging the gap between science, policy, and practice. It led to the co-development of the ‘Manipur State Roadmap for Springshed Management’, the state’s first comprehensive policy framework on springshed management, with implementation planned for 2026.

This achievement builds on ICIMOD’s partnership with Community-based Sustainable Forest Management for Water Resource Conservation (COSFOM) since 2024, to strengthen springshed management and build capacity across government departments, village authorities, and universities. ICIMOD’s team used the six-step protocol for training, which combines mapping, data monitoring, understanding social and governance systems, hydrogeological studies, springshed management protocols, and measuring the impacts of spring revival activities.

On the ground, in partnership with COSFOM, we trained para-hydrogeologists and departmental officers to conduct spring mapping and implement pilot springshed rejuvenation in Teinam and five other villages of Ukhrul district. This marked a significant step forward – from piloting to policy adoption – in strengthening water security and building socio-ecological resilience.

ICIMOD facilitated the co-development of the ‘Manipur State Roadmap for Springshed Management’, effectively bridging the gap between science, policy, and practice. The roadmap is the state’s first comprehensive policy framework on springshed management.





‘Good fire’

Indigenous practice and science remedy ailing rangelands in Bhutan

In Tseko, in Thimphu District, prescribed burning is back on the land – for the first time with formal government backing. A demonstration site there has shown significant habitat improvement since treatment, part of a new national standard that ICIMOD helped Bhutan’s Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS) put into practice in 2025.

Herders in Bhutan’s high-altitude rangelands have long used controlled fire to clear grazing areas for their animals. It managed shrub encroachment and weeds, boosted forage for livestock and wild herbivores alike, and kept combustible material (‘fuel load’) from building up – reducing the risk of the large, uncontrolled fires that climate change is making more frequent.



But traditional fire-clearing was prohibited for decades. Without it, weeds and woody shrubs spread across the rangelands, forage grew scarcer, grazing areas shrank, and centuries-old migration routes were disrupted. Herders faced more labour and higher costs for supplementary feed, putting their livelihoods under strain.

How could this practice be revived – to restore rangelands while also reducing forest fire risk?

The answer started with the policy. Bhutan’s National Forest Policy (2011) and the Forest and Nature Conservation Act (2023) already permitted ‘prescribed burning’ for ecosystem and pasture management—but the provision had never been implemented, for a simple reason: forestry staff and communities lacked

the institutional capacity, standard procedures, and practical experience to carry it out.

In 2025, ICIMOD partnered with DoFPS to close that gap – combining Indigenous knowledge with scientific methods to turn policy into field-ready practice. Together, they co-developed a National Standard Operating Procedure, built an audiovisual explainer, and trained staff and pastoralists on how to plan and carry out a prescribed burn.

The result? Fire, once banned, is now a regulated, institutionalised tool for managing Bhutan’s rangelands – with the technical guidance and oversight to use it safely.

ICIMOD, with DoFPS, co-developed standard operating procedures and trained staff and pastoralists on how to implement a prescribed burn. **The DoFPS now has the institutional capability to use fire as a tool for ecosystem and forest fire management.**

45

DoFPS staff, local forestry officers, and pastoralists have been trained to plan and carry out prescribed burns – and roughly 10 hectares of pastureland have already been treated under the new standard.



Nurturing innovation to scale sustainable solutions

The HKH Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurs

The scale of the challenges faced by mountain communities and ecosystems in the HKH is substantial. But it is not insurmountable and can be tackled with innovative, out-of-the-box solutions. This was the premise of the HKH Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurs (HKH-ICE) run jointly by ICIMOD and the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP).

The inaugural HKH-ICE call, in November 2024, was officially launched at the UN Climate Conference, COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan, inviting both experienced and emerging entrepreneurs, from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bhutan, India's Himalayan states, and Nepal, to elaborate scalable, innovative solutions that tackle ecological, market, and value chain challenges, in agriculture, water security,



sustainable tourism, waste management, and forestry sectors. The prizes for the winning submissions included funding ranging from USD 5,000 to 25,000 to support project scaling, along with mentoring, communications, networking, and investment support.

Applicants were tasked with developing proposals focused on enhancing resilience for those most vulnerable to climate shocks and stresses, promoting gender equity, and preserving biodiversity, while driving sustainable livelihoods and economic growth. The initiative also prioritised locally led innovations that leverage the HKH region's natural and social capital in an ecologically sustainable manner.

From over 140 proposals, 17 candidates were shortlisted and invited to attend a Leadership Academy in Kathmandu, Nepal, in March 2025, where they explored the role of leadership in their work. Five finalists from Nepal had the added opportunity to share their innovative solutions with Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke of Edinburgh and the Duchess of Edinburgh, during their tour of ICIMOD's Living Mountain Lab (LML) in Nepal.

After rigorous evaluations, mentorship sessions, and comprehensive assessments, the 12 winners of the HKH-ICE Challenge were chosen for innovative, scalable solutions that enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems across the HKH – proving that sustainable businesses are possible.

144

PROPOSALS

12

WINNERS

Shiblee Farms (Bangladesh)

Kingdom Essences (Bhutan)

Mangala Herbeceuticals (Bhutan)

Jome Foods (India)

Himalayan Ecotourism (India)

DESCAT UK (India)

Acres of Ice (India)

Kumaon Khand (India)

Khaalisisi Management (Nepal)

The Green Intelligence (Nepal)

Build Up Nepal (Nepal)

Ilami Agro and Tech Pvt. Ltd. (Nepal)



SCAN TO READ
MORE ABOUT
THE WINNERS



Local-level data is sustaining Nepal's forest-dependent households

With 66% of households in Nepal depending on non-timber forest products from both public and private forests nationwide, forests play a significant role in livelihoods in the country. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Nepal include aromatic spices, essential oils, medicinal herbs, and natural fibres for weaving. In contrast to global trends, Nepal's forest cover has increased in recent years, mainly due to the scaling up of community forestry management in the 1990s. Now, the Government of Nepal (GoN) aims to improve

livelihoods and jobs in forestry while maintaining forest cover. Before 2025, only national-level data on Nepal's forests existed, which had impeded the achievement of sustainable forest management goals for many years.

To rectify the 'broad-brush' approach of gathering only national-level data, ICIMOD, with funding from the World Bank Group, partnered with Nepal's Ministry of Forest and Environment's Forest Research and Training Centre (FRTC) to develop detailed forest maps and indicators at the municipal level.

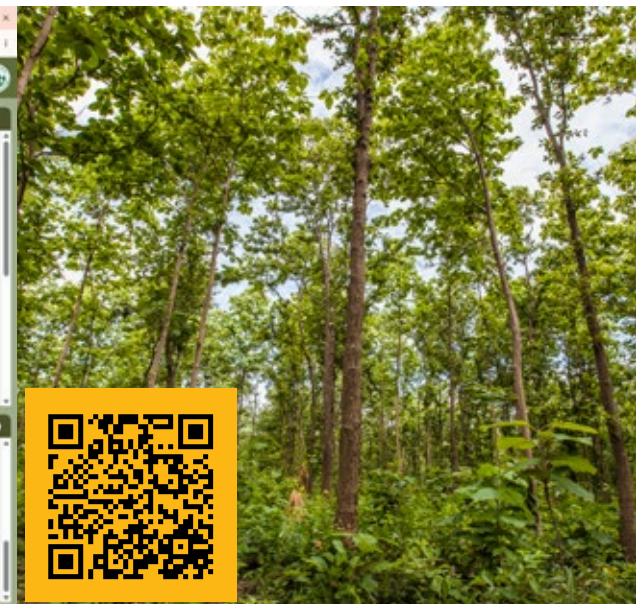
The team generated data detailing forest biophysical characteristics, including tree canopy cover and height, patch density, and forest fragmentation, providing the extent and condition of major forest types across all 753 municipalities of Nepal.

The team's overall methodology for forest-type mapping was based on the Regional Land Cover Monitoring System developed by ICIMOD under its SERVIR-HKH initiative, using 10-metre-spatial-resolution images from the Sentinel-2 satellite to produce local-level forest maps. They also developed an interactive web application for easy data access and visualisation (<https://nepal.spatialapps.net/sbfi/>).

ICIMOD and FRTC collected field data and held several stakeholder consultations to validate it, including representatives from local government, forest user groups, and forest-related institutions.

The GoN adopted the generated data, and FRTC officially launched the system on the 2nd National Forest Research Day, 21 December 2025. The availability, access, and use of localised and detailed data enabled provincial and local governments, divisional and sub-divisional forest offices, and the local communities – the forest user groups – to develop forest management plans tailored to their landscapes.

The team generated data detailing forest biophysical characteristics, providing the extent and condition of major forest types across all 753 municipalities of Nepal, enabling tailored forest management plans.



From the roof of the world to the global stage

Mountain voices resound at the United Nations



The momentum to elevate mountain issues within the global climate agenda has never been greater, nor has the vulnerability of mountain regions to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Here in the HKH, the effects of the crisis are palpable from the highest peaks to the lowlands. In this context, 2025 marked a year of intense engagement for ICIMOD with the United Nations, as we worked to amplify the mountains' voices in deliberations and events on the global stage.

ICIMOD advances the interests of the Hindu Kush Himalaya through active engagement in major UN processes and key global agendas. By providing evidence-based support to its Regional Member Countries, ICIMOD helps position HKH priorities in international negotiations, elevates the profile of mountain issues in global forums, and strengthens the region's strategic voice in shaping international decisions. These efforts aim to increase investment and finance flows to the region, benefiting mountain communities and mountains.

Strengthening climate action and ambition in the HKH

ICIMOD partners with UNFCCC



In Bonn, Germany, on 24 June 2025, ICIMOD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to strengthen climate action in the HKH countries. This three-year partnership leverages and deepens ICIMOD's long-standing status as an observer of the UNFCCC process.

The MoU is designed to further support governments in the region to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and investment, track climate progress, identify gaps and unlock support by implementing the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

Seeing clearly on climate action

HKH Regional Hub launched for transparent reporting

On 2 December 2025, the Hindu Kush Himalaya Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub (HKHRCATH) was launched by partners UNFCCC and ICIMOD in Paro, Bhutan.

The hub establishes a dedicated platform for ICIMOD's RMCs and aims to provide sustained capacity building and promote data and experience sharing across the region.



Mountains on centre stage

ICIMOD's bid for Observer Status at the UN General Assembly



On 15 October 2025, at the 6th Committee of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, USA, a statement was made by the representative of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN, and the Royal Government of Bhutan supported the application to grant Observer Status to ICIMOD in the UNGA.

Both Nepal's endorsement and Bhutan's original application outline ICIMOD's unique role as neutral regional convenor, generator and broker of knowledge, provider of capacity

building, and facilitator of collaboration in climate and environmental risks, resilient economies and livelihoods, and regional and global cooperation – areas of work directly in line with the UN's own priorities.

The decision was deferred to a subsequent session of the UNGA. If granted, ICIMOD's Observer Status would enable the centre to further support its RMCs in amplifying the region's voice, strengthen global partnerships, and align regional and international priorities for greater global impact.

Moving mountains from the margins to the mainstream

ICIMOD at COP30

The 30th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in November 2025 in Belém, Brazil, was notable for the mainstreaming of the mountain agenda into core functions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with a view for a faster, more targeted climate action in the mountains.

ICIMOD supported RMCs in crucial negotiations and engaged in targeted sessions, side events, and pavilions to advance mountain priorities.

ICIMOD served as a knowledge-policy bridge, providing regionally grounded scientific evidence, supporting coordinated engagements by RMCs, and highlighting mountain-specific risks and adaptation



needs across discussions on COP30 thematic areas, including climate finance, transparency, capacity building, research and systematic observation, and loss and damage.

A key contribution was RMCs support to RMCs during negotiations that led to the finalisation of the UAE–Belém Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) – which aims to enhance people’s capacity to adapt and reduce their vulnerability to climate change, strengthen resilience, and contribute to sustainable development. Importantly, the final list of 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators includes indicators in finance, capacity building, technology transfer, and sectors that are directly relevant to mountains.

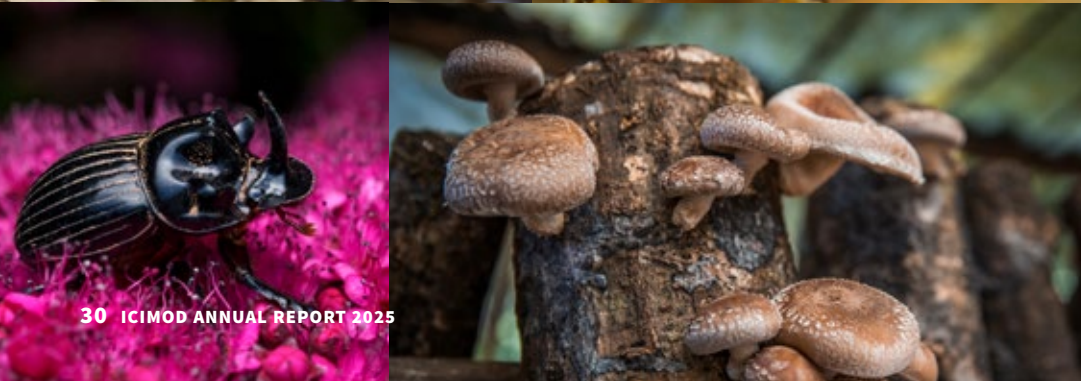
Notably, ICIMOD supported and contributed to the COP30 Presidency Consultation on Mountains and Climate Change, which resulted in the decision to convene a high-level Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change at the UNFCCC’s June Climate meetings in Bonn, Germany, in 2026, a significant step toward institutionalising mountain issues within the UNFCCC process.

Echoing COP30’s historic call for humanity to unite in a ‘global mutirão’ (collective effort) against climate change, ICIMOD’s

priorities are to strengthen ICIMOD’s partnerships with global mountain actors, continue to support RMCs to address climate change impacts through adaptation and mitigation, support the implementation of COP30 measures and decisions, and to ensure that mountain issues remain integral to UNFCCC workstreams and outcomes.

The COP30 was notable for the mainstreaming of the mountain agenda into core functions of the UNFCCC, with a view to faster, more targeted climate action in the mountains.





The Living Mountain Lab (LML), in Godavari, Kathmandu, Nepal, is ICIMOD's hub for sustainable solutions for mountain communities across the HKH.

In 2025, LML's activities included improved training programmes, engagements, visits, knowledge transfer, solutions, demonstrations, technology, physical infrastructure, livestock, and biodiversity conservation.

In addition to promoting this sustainable value chain, LML has shown that mushroom cultivation is an ideal agricultural enterprise for women to earn an independent income. LML delivered mushroom cultivation training to participants from five countries. LML's mushroom cultivation programme builds on a two-year technical exchange with the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

With new topics including sustainable livestock husbandry and organic soil management, LML's training programme flourished in 2025. Approximately 100 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan attended training programmes. Participants were selected based on their status as practitioners, well-positioned to replicate the training in their home contexts.

LML's physical infrastructure also escalated, with Ecohomes constructed from rammed earth – a sustainable, earthquake-resistant technology. LML's new central engagement hub, the Cement Bamboo Frame Technology Visitor Centre, was inaugurated, modelling earthquake-resistant, low-carbon construction. Insect guests can now stay at the exclusive 'insect hotel', constructed using drilled timber. This mimics the natural habitat of pollinators and can help to improve pollination on farms. The cold storage facility for Fungi, with thermal energy and a solar backup system, demonstrates how renewable energy enables niche farming in remote areas.

LML also include Nepal's first demonstration plots of syntropic agroforestry – a high-density, multi-species system that creates self-

sustaining production, improves soil health, and provides year-round harvests. A new climate-resilient livestock training section includes demonstrations of improved poultry and a breeding programme for the endangered Siri cow. A pioneering survey of herpetofauna in LML and surrounding areas documented 24 species, including one potentially new to science.

In 2025, 8,650 guests, including Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, diplomatic representatives, ambassadors, and ministers from the HKH, visited LML. Engagement with 26 universities and 25 non-governmental organisations further strengthened LML's engagement globally.



8,650

VISITORS

26

UNIVERSITIES

25

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS



Gender equality and social inclusion

Tailored solutions for greater impact

Different people have different needs and challenges and require tailored solutions. To address that, the ICIMOD team has designed gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) integration into both institutional systems and programme delivery.

In 2025, ICIMOD rolled out its GESI Training Manual for staff and partners at the institutional level. Post-training assessments indicate a stronger capacity among staff to conduct GESI analysis and apply GESI-responsive approaches.

The team developed a GESI-responsive budgeting and tracking tool, designed to strengthen more focused resource allocation and expenditure tracking. A new mandatory Events Participant Data System captures disaggregated data to enable more effective outreach. In 2025, ICIMOD's Women's Circle hosted events focused on professional growth and well-being. ICIMOD's Youth Committee helped bring youth perspectives into institutional processes and regional dialogue.

ICIMOD also expanded its knowledge base in 2025, with key GESI-focused studies on gender, climate change, loss and damage, and disaster risk reduction.

At the programme level, ICIMOD strengthened the use of the GESI Marker to assess how units were progressing from GESI-unaware to GESI-aware and GESI-responsive. Overall, GESI integration is moving from policy commitment and initial tracking towards more systematic application.

Push for stronger mountain biodiversity actions

In 2025, ICIMOD authors contributed to a major report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas on scaling up conservation through ecological connectivity. ICIMOD's study focused on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Panchthar-Ilam-Taplejung corridor, a transboundary area straddling Nepal and India in the eastern Himalaya. The study advocates an approach integrating biodiversity conservation with Indigenous knowledge, culture, and stewardship.

Apart from hosting the first Asia hub of the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) research network, ICIMOD also began to lead the implementation and coordination of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Biodiversity Assessment, which seeks to enhance understanding of mountain biodiversity in the region.

ICIMOD strengthened its partnership with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) through a programme that enhanced institutional capability for biodiversity data management across the HKH. Working with national institutions in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, partners published 20 biodiversity datasets using the regional open-access infrastructure, the Hindu Kush Himalayan Biodiversity Information Facility (HKHBIF), hosted by ICIMOD. ICIMOD helped partners to push for stronger mountain biodiversity actions at the resumed sessions of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP16) in Rome.

Climate action

ICIMOD's climate and environmental action steps up

Combating climate change is central to ICIMOD's work and is ever more urgent in the face of the extreme impacts in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH). In 2025, ICIMOD focused its climate change work at the institutional, regional, and global levels.

ICIMOD revised its 'Climate Action and Environmental Safeguards Policy', committing to ensuring that its work makes positive contributions and, while avoiding or minimising negative effects on the climate and environment. ICIMOD's preliminary data on its institutional carbon footprint for 2022–2024 enables targeted actions to minimise the footprint.

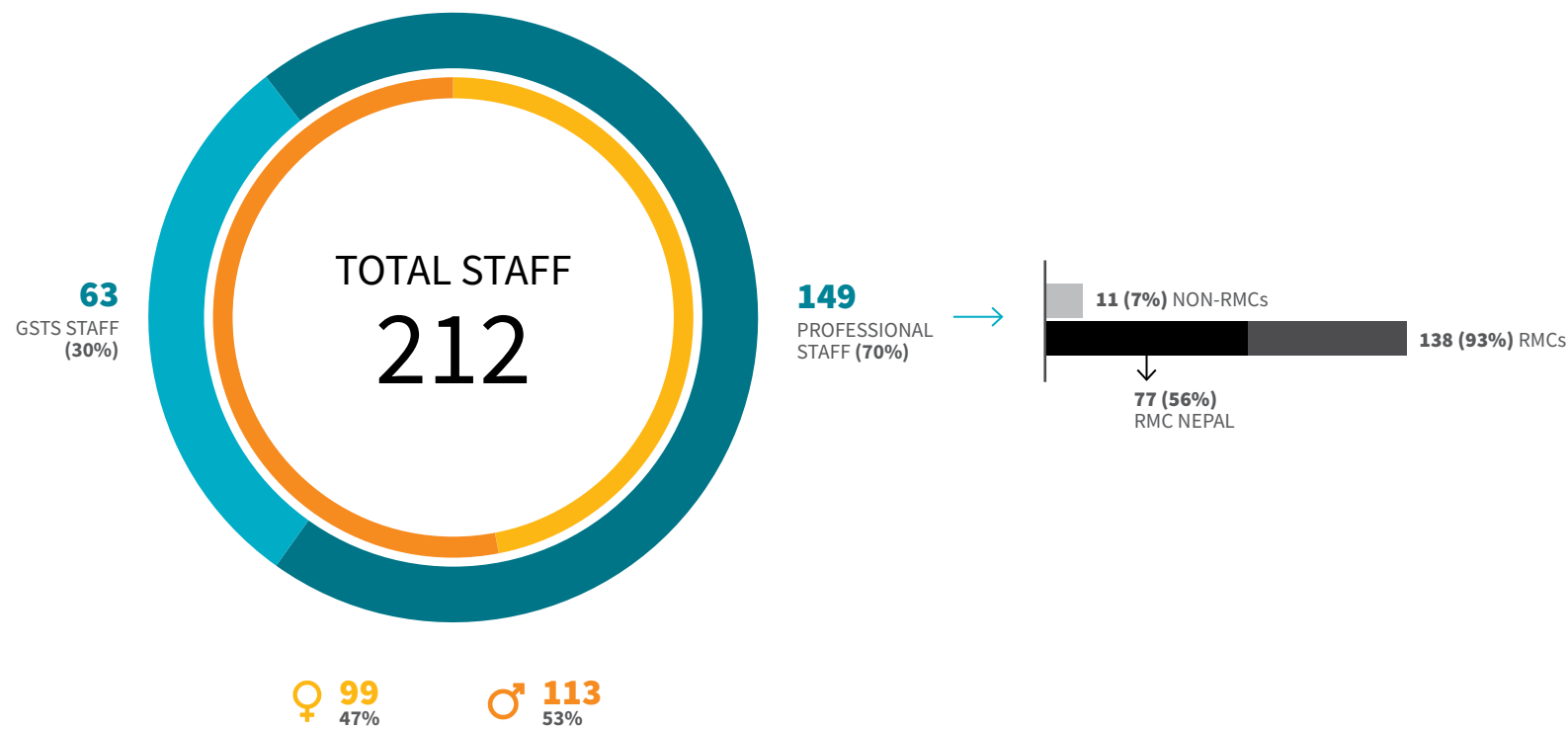
At the regional and global levels, ICIMOD supported the Government of Nepal in developing its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and helped shape global climate science through engagement with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

At the 62nd IPCC meeting, ICIMOD contributed to the incorporation of mountain and cryosphere issues, including a dedicated cross-chapter on mountains, within the outline of the IPCC's upcoming Seventh Assessment Report (AR7). Subsequently, five ICIMOD-nominated experts were selected as Lead Authors of the AR7, and an ICIMOD staff member was among the experts selected for the AR7 scoping process.

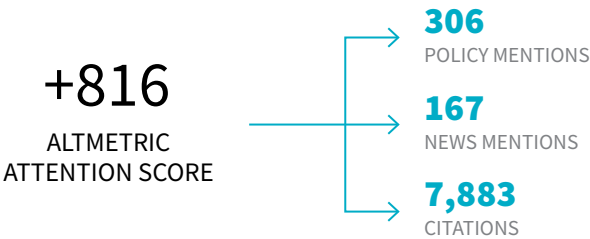
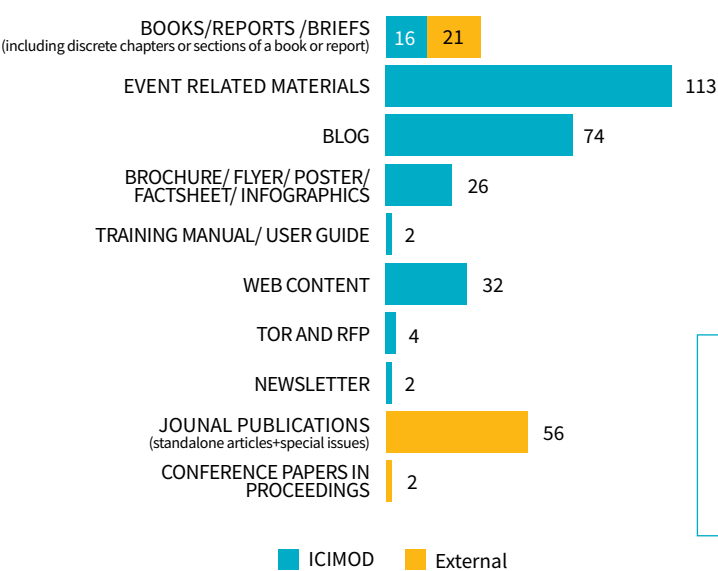
Staff

ICIMOD is committed to, celebrates, and promotes equal opportunity and diversity in the workplace. ICIMOD makes efforts to ensure that all RMCs are adequately represented in the workforce and have a Young ICIMOD Professionals Programme (YIPP) to encourage youth from

under-represented RMCs and donor countries to apply. The majority of ICIMOD's staff are from the HKH. ICIMOD is also committed to gender and social diversity and encourages qualified women candidates and those from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply.



Publications



TOP 3 PUBLICATIONS

Hydrological Contributions of Snow and Glacier Melt from the Gangotri Glacier System and Their Climatic Controls Since 1980

HKH Snow Update 2025

Flood complexity and rising exposure risk in High Mountain Asia under climate change

Media & Social Media

SOCIAL MEDIA

1,872
TOTAL POSTS

WITH **4.65%**
AVERAGE ENGAGEMENT RATE

MEDIA

40
PRESS RELEASES

Web

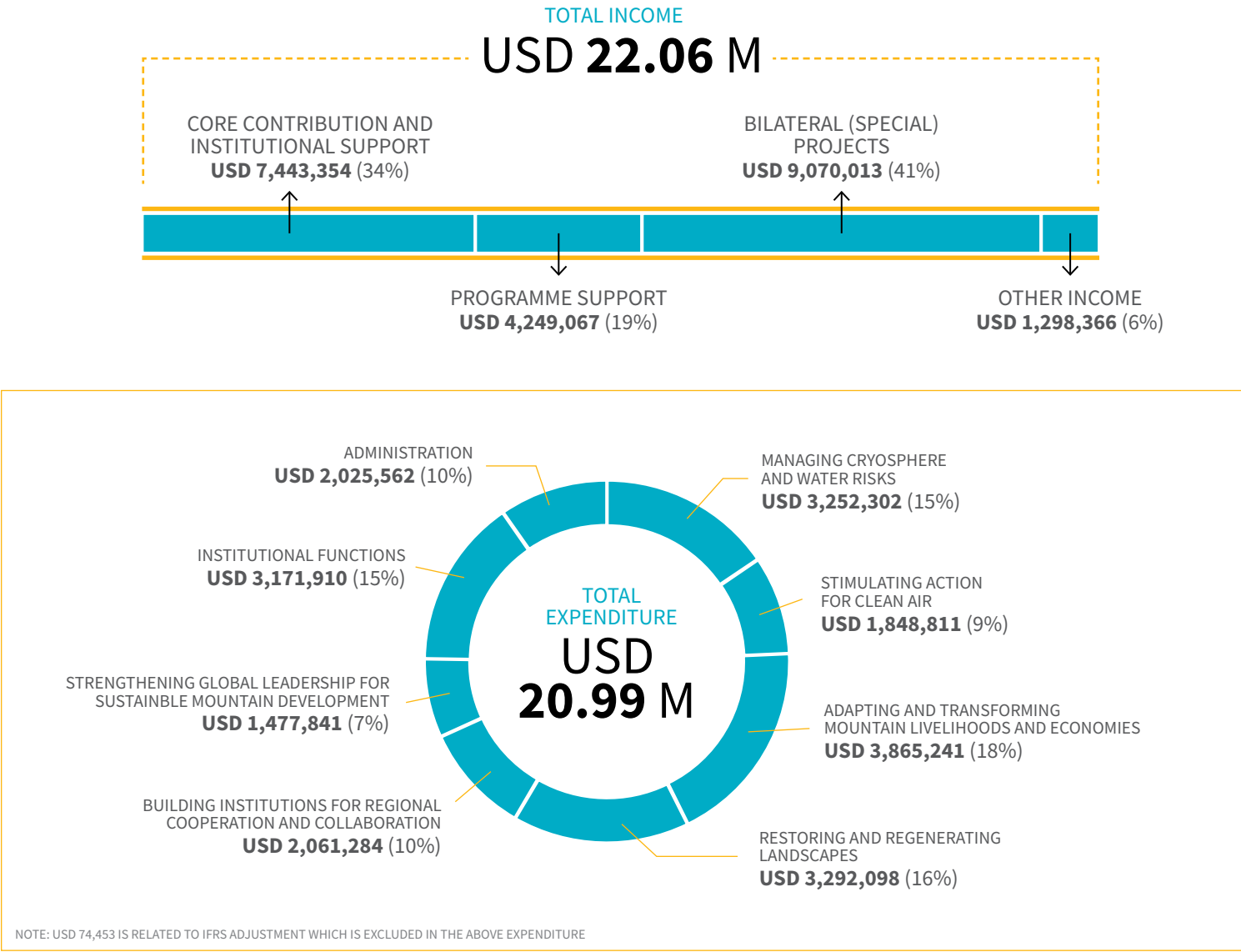
WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

1,092,179
INCREASED BY **22%**

599,340
VISITORS

BLOGS

52



International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2025

All amounts in United States Dollars

	As at 31 December 2025	As at 31 December 2024
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,855,433	2,647,738
Capital work in progress	16,767	145,786
Intangible assets	9,193	3,289
Other assets	101,975	76,375
Total non-current assets	2,983,368	2,873,188
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,229,470	7,790,018
Other bank balances	20,862,296	11,705,851
Receivables from donors	3,051,976	2,989,976
Other assets	473,217	463,611
Total current assets	32,616,959	22,949,456
Total assets	35,600,327	25,822,644
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefit obligations	-	1,188,330
Total non-current liabilities	-	1,188,330
Current liabilities		
Payables	2,025,881	1,791,932
Deferred income	12,962,848	5,068,404
Employee benefit obligations	2,759,197	1,061,780
Total current liabilities	17,747,926	7,922,116
Total liabilities	17,747,926	9,110,446
Fund balance		
General reserve	3,885,131	3,657,090
Operational reserve	13,967,270	13,055,108
Total fund balance	17,852,401	16,712,198
Total liabilities and fund balance	35,600,327	25,822,644

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Operating Statement for the year ended 31 December 2025

All amounts in United States Dollars

	Year Ended 31 December 2025	Year Ended 31 December 2024
Income		
Contribution from Donors		
Core Contribution and Institutional Support	7,443,354	8,260,560
Programme Support	4,249,067	4,818,804
Special Projects	9,070,013	7,473,759
Total Contributions from Donors	20,762,434	20,553,123
Other Income	1,298,366	740,913
Total Income	22,060,800	21,294,036
Expense		
Core and Institutional Support Expenses	7,815,158	6,925,514
Programme Support Expenses	4,249,067	4,818,804
Special Projects Expenses	8,856,372	7,405,427
Total Expenses	20,920,597	19,149,745
Operating surplus for the year	1,140,203	2,144,291
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified to Operating surplus		
Remeasurements of post-employment benefit obligations	-	66,760
Total other comprehensive income	-	66,760
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	1,140,203	2,211,051

Partners

BANGLADESH

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), ICIMOD Nodal Agency

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Ministry of Agriculture

Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Bangladesh Forest Department, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

Arannayk Foundation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University

BRAC University

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Jahangirnagar University

Momodra Foundation

BHUTAN

Ministry of Energy and Natural Resource (MoENR), Royal Government of Bhutan, ICIMOD Nodal Agency

National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM)

Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM), Ministry of Home Affairs

Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL)

Department of Energy (DoE), MoENR

Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFPS), MoENR

Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), MoENR

Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL)

Department of Geology and Mines, MoENR

Department of Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT)

Department of Human Settlement, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT)

Department of Land Administration and Management, National Land Commission Secretariat (NLCS)

Department of Macro Fiscal and Development Finance, Ministry of Finance (MoF)

Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MoFAET)

Department of Tourism, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE)

Royal University of Bhutan (RUB)

Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC)

National Council of Bhutan (NCB)

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Forest Research and Training (UWIFORT)

Bhutan Ecological Society (BES)

Centre for Bhutan and GNH Studies

Department of Water, MoENR

Greener Way Private Limited

Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (JSW)

National Biodiversity Centre (NBC)

Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN)

Royal Thimphu College (RTC)

Sherubtse College

Tarayana Foundation

CHINA

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), ICIMOD Nodal Agency

China-ICIMOD Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Chengdu

Institute of Mountain Hazard and Environment (IMHE), CAS

Aerospace Information Research Institute (AIRCAS), CAS

National Remote Sensing Center of China (NRSCC), Ministry of Science and Technology

China International Research Center for Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

China State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection (SKLGP)

Centre For Mountain Futures (CMF)

Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES)

International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR)

Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden (XTBG), CAS

Southeast Asia Biodiversity Research institute (SEABRI), CAS

Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), CAS

Lanzhou University

National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

Sichuan Academy of Agriculture Sciences (SAAS)

National Tibetan Plateau/Third Pole Environment Data Centre (NTP/TPDC)

Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS), CAS

Sichuan University

Tsinghua University

INDIA

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, ICIMOD Nodal Agency

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)

Balipara Foundation

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Community Based Sustainable Forest Management for Water Resource Conservation (COSFOM), Manipur

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

Development Alternatives (DA)

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee)

India Foundation

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

National Institute of Urban Affair (NIUA)

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Guahati University

NITI Aayog

Meghalaya Basin Development Board (MDBA)

Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT India)

Advanced Center for Water Resources Development

Birla Institute of Technology

Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy

Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry

Foundation for Ecological Security

GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD)

Good Business Lab Foundation

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Indian Statistical Institute

International Forum for Environment Sustainability

Ladakh Ecological Development Group

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

NEPAL

National Planning Commission (NPC), ICIMOD Nodal Agency

Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC)

Agriculture Forestry University (AFU)

Banking Finance and Insurance Institute of Nepal (BFIN)

Department of Environment (DoEnv), Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE)

Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI)

Habitat for Humanity Nepal

Ministry of Water Supply

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoLD)

Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC), Karnali Province, Surkhet Nepal

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA)

Tribhuvan University (TU)

UN WOMEN Nepal

Water Aid Nepal

World Food Programme (WFP) Nepal

World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) Nepal

South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

Centre for Water Resources Studies (CWRS)

Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (CDHM), Tribhuvan University (TU)

Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED)

Clean Up Nepal

Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal (CDAFN)

Community Development and Environment Conservation

Community Homestay Network Pvt. Ltd.

Forest Action Nepal

Global Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (GISS)

Himalaya Bio Trade Pvt. Ltd

Human Rights Social Awareness and Development Centre (HUSADEC)

Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI)

Institute of Forestry (IOF)

Kathmandu University (KU)

KGS Management Incorporated Private Limited

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Mandwi

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI)

Nepal Institute of Development Studies

Pathway Technologies and Services Pvt. Ltd

Policy Entrepreneurs Incorporated Pvt. Ltd

Practical Action

R&D Innovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Red Panda Network

Sabal Nepal

Smart Infra Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

The Small Earth Nepal

Ujjalo Nepal

MYANMAR

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, ICIMOD Nodal Agency

PAKISTAN

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)

Soni Jawari Center for Public Policy (SGCPP), Gilgit Baltistan

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)

Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC & EC)

Water Environment Forum, Pakistan

Active Partnerships formalised through LoA

Institute of Business Administration

National Integrated Development Association

National University of Sciences and Technology

PARC Agrotech Company

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

OTHER COUNTRIES

Adaptation Without Borders (AWB)

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Thailand

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand

Citepa, France

Chubu University, Japan

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Indonesia

Climate Analytics, Germany

Everest-K2 National Research Council (EVK2CNR), Italy

French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), France

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT, CGIAR centre), Mexico

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI, CGIAR centre), Kenya

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI, CGIAR centre), Philippines

Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP), USA

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), South Korea

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), Switzerland

Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), South Africa

GRID-Arendal, Norway

Health Effects Institute (HEI), USA

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Switzerland

Hydropower Sustainability Alliance (HSA), Portugal

Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, CGIAR centre)

International Potato Centre (CIP, CGIAR centre), Peru

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Asia Regional Office, Thailand

One Water Vision – International Research Consortium (IRC), France

Population Council, USA

Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), Thailand

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Sri Lanka

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Italy

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Sri Lanka

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), France

World Food Programme (WFP), Italy

World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Switzerland

International Water management Institute (IWMI, CGIAR Centre)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Thailand

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Thailand

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UN ESCAP), Thailand

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), USA

UNFCCC (Transparency division) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Germany

Board of Governors

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BANGLADESH	Mr. Md. Abdul Khaleque Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
BHUTAN	Dasho Karma Tshering Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
CHINA	Prof. He Hongping (Chairperson, ICIMOD Board of Governors) Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences
INDIA	Mr. Tanmay Kumar Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
MYANMAR	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo Director General, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
NEPAL	Prof. Shiva Raj Adhikari Vice Chair, National Planning Commission
PAKISTAN	Mr. Amir Mohyuddin* Federal Secretary (In-Charge) Ministry of National Food Security and Research

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Vice chair of the Netherlands Foundation of the World Connectors
Independent Sustainability Leader, Chair National Netherlands Transparency Benchmark, member Sustainability and Integrity Board Daimler/Mercedes; Member Board Impact Economy Foundation; Member Advisory Board of the Dutch Foreign Trade and Aid policy review of Foreign Affairs;

Dr Renate U. Christ
Former Secretary of the WMO UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Dr Carolina Adler
Executive Director
Mountain Research Initiative

Mr Lennart Bage
Chair of the Board
Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Former Co-Chair of the UN Green Climate Fund
Former Board Member and acting Director General of Sida
Former President of IFAD. Former Ambassador, Stockholm, Sweden

Ms Anita Arjundas
Executive Director, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, India

Prof. Wu Ning
Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Mr. Ivar T. Jorgensen
Former Policy Director, Department of Climate and Environment Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

ICIMOD SUPPORT GROUP

H.E Rob Fenn (Chair, ICIMOD Support Group)
His Majesty's Ambassador to Nepal
The British Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal

H. E. Dr. Danielle Meuwly (Vice Chairperson, ICIMOD Support Group)
Ambassador
Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Kathmandu, Nepal

* Mr. Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry served from Jan-July 2025.

Members,
sponsors,
and funding
partners

CORE FUNDING

Regional Member Countries

Afghanistan	Bangladesh
Bhutan	China
India	Myanmar
Nepal	Pakistan

Non-regional member countries

Government of Austria, Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

Government of Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government of Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Government of Switzerland, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

BILATERAL PROJECT FUNDING

Aerospace Information Research Institute, CAS

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom

Government of Australia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Carleton University

Oxfam International

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland

SCS Global Service

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

The World Bank

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), based in Kathmandu, Nepal, is an international knowledge organisation focused on the HKH region, working since 1983 to deliver greener, more inclusive, and climate-resilient development. Our work is guided by our [Strategy 2030](#), [Medium-Term Action Plan V \(2023–2026\)](#) and the associated Results Framework, and our various [policies](#).

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